

REMARKS

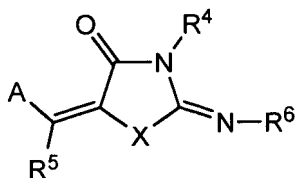
Claims 1-8 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Murota et al (EP 1048982 A1) ("EP '982").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

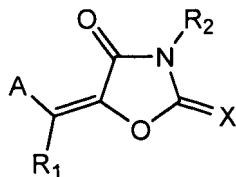
Present claim 4 is directed to the compounds represented by the following formula (2):



Formula (2) of present invention

wherein A represents an optionally substituted aromatic or heterocyclic ring; X represents an oxygen atom; R⁴ and R⁵ each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a monovalent non-metallic atomic group; R⁶ is a substituted aryl group; and A and R⁴, R⁵ or R⁶ may be bonded to each other to form an aliphatic or aromatic ring.

EP '982 discloses the compounds represented by the following formula (III-1):



Formula (III-1) of EP '982

wherein A represents an aromatic or heterocyclic ring which may have a substituent; X represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or -NR₃; R₁, R₂, and R₃ each represents a hydrogen atom or a monovalent non-metallic atomic group, and A and R₁, R₂, and R₃ each may be bonded to each other to form an aliphatic or aromatic group.

EP '982 further discloses that R₁, R₂, and R₃ each preferably represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkylthio group, a hydroxyl group or a halogen atom (Paragraph No. [0132]). EP '982 then provides specific examples of each preferred embodiment (Paragraph Nos. [0133]-[0141]).

However, EP '982 does not describe or exemplify a specific compound within the scope of the present claims, or provide any guidance or advantages in choosing -NR₃ for X and a substituted aryl group for R₃, among numerous possible selections. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be able to "at once envisage" the presently claimed specific compounds in view of the disclosure of EP '982, and thus there is no anticipation. See MPEP 2131.02.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

II. Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP '982.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to a photosensitive composition containing (A) a sensitizing dye represented by the formula (1); (B) an initiator compound which is a hexaarylbiimidazole or a bisacyl phosphine; and (C) a compound whose physical or chemical characteristic irreversibly changes by at least one of a radical, an acid, and a base.

In contrast, EP '982 discloses a polymerizable composition comprising a sensitizing dye, a titanocene compound and an addition polymerizable compound. In the composition of EP '982, a titanocene compound is an essential component. EP '982 generally describes hexaarylbiimidazole as an example of co-sensitizers; however, it does not describe the use of hexaarylbiimidazole in an example, or exemplify a composition containing hexaarylbiimidazole. Further, in EP '982, even if hexaarylbiimidazole were to be employed, it would necessarily be employed with the titanocene compound.

The titanocene compound, which is an essential component of EP '982, generally has an absorption at 500 nm or more. Therefore, the photosensitive composition of the present invention, which contains hexaarylbiimidazole and not a titanocene compound, is superior for use under a yellow lamp in comparison with the composition of EP '982.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are not obvious over EP '982 and thus the rejection should be withdrawn.

III. Response to Claim Objection

Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 1, from which claim 8 depends, has been overcome as set forth above and thus the objection should be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 20, 2006